Lyndhurst Public Information Sessions

Investigation & Cleanup of Contaminated Sediment in the Lower Passaic River May 9, 2012 Lyndhurst, New Jersey

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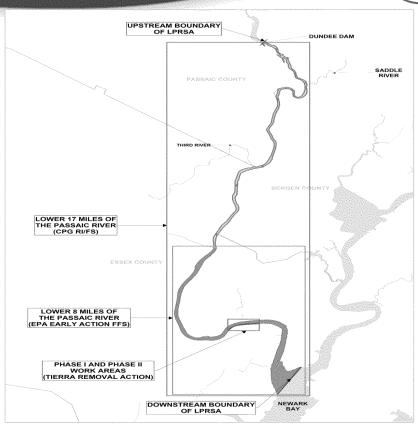
Agenda

- Sampling results from Passaic River mud flat: Lyndhurst
- Sampling results from Riverside County Park
- Public awareness & involvement
- EPA plans for mud flat cleanup
- Big Picture: Study & cleanup of the Lower Passaic River

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Study of Lower Passaic River Contamination

- EPA overseeing the Cooperating Parties
 Group in conducting a detailed study of
 contaminated river sediment from Newark
 Bay to Garfield
- Study revealed elevated concentrations of contaminants in river sediment at River Mile 10.9 in Lyndhurst

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River Mile 10.9 River Sampling Locations

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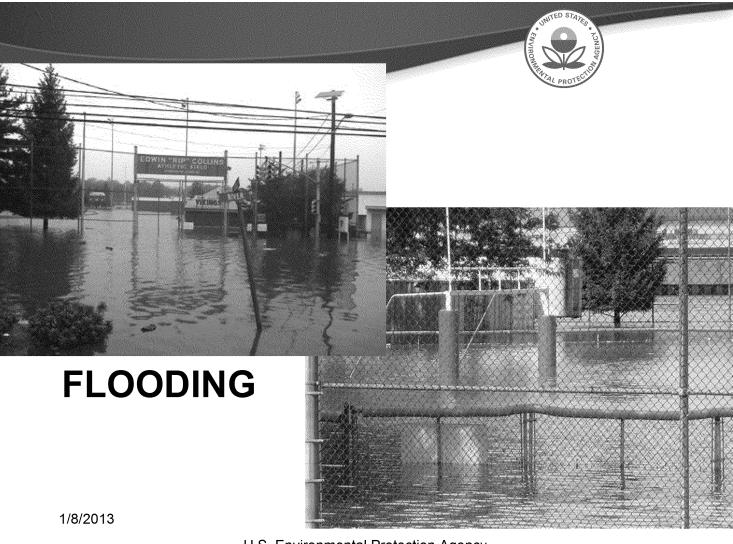
Sampling of Riverside County Park: North & South Areas

- North Area sampling performed by EPA in late January 2012
- South Area sampling performed by EPA in late September 2011 following flooding from Hurricane Irene/Tropical Storm Lee

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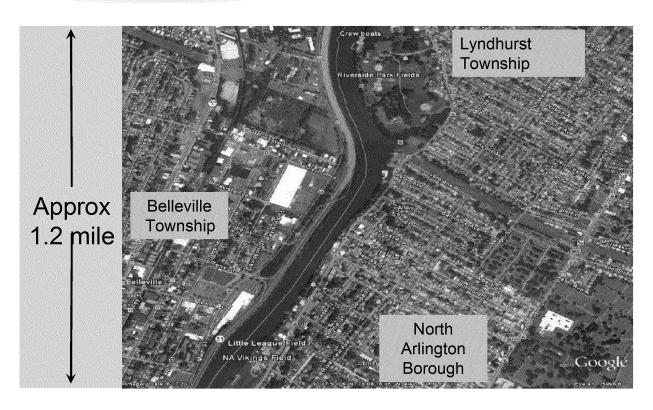


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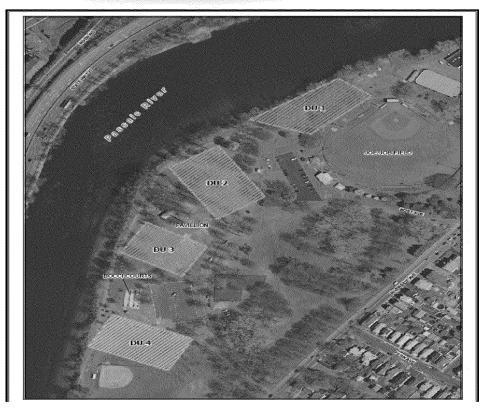




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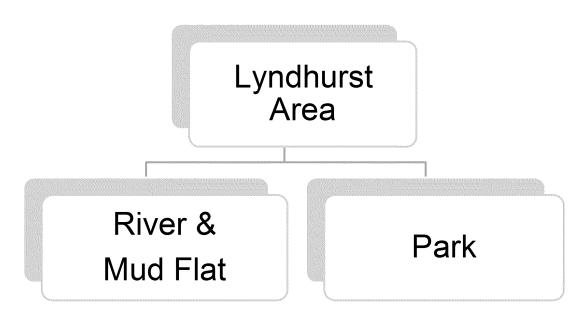
Riverside Park: North Area

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Public Awareness



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Mud Flat vs. Park



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Park Use Recommendations

- EPA evaluated sample data from the park
- Results are well below levels of concern for children and adolescents playing in the park and for workers maintaining the park
- If you use the park, continue doing what you normally do

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Mud Flat Risks

- Contaminants in the mud flat do not pose a risk to users of the park
- Risks have been evaluated by EPA using sample data
- Under certain long-term scenarios risks from contact with the mud flat are slightly above levels of concern

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Mud Flat Recommendations

- Try to avoid contact with mud flat sediment
- But if contact does occur, take the following actions:
 - Wash your hands and feet
 - Brush mud off your shoes
 - Wipe off your pets paws
 - Use gloves and wear long sleeves and pants if you are part of a park trash cleanup effort

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Mud Flat Cleanup

Cleanup Goals:

- Reduce exposure to contaminants in mud flat
- Prevent migration of contaminants from mud flat to other areas of the river

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Mud Flat Cleanup

Cleanup Components:

- Remove approximately 2 feet of sediment from the mud flat area
- Place a cap over the excavated area to isolate underlying sediment
- Monitor the effectiveness of the cap over time to assure it remains effective until a final cleanup plan can be selected

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What EPA is Doing to Address River Sediment Contamination

- Finalizing a legal agreement with the parties potentially responsible for the contamination to pay for and perform the cleanup
- Contacting, informing and consulting with local officials, the community and river users
- Collecting additional data needed to design the cleanup



Designing the Mud Flat Cleanup

- Legal agreement: Cooperating Parties Group would submit a proposal for removal and capping.
- EPA and New Jersey DEP will review, EPA approves work proposals and design plans
- Decisions need to be made on key design features:
 - How sediment removal will be conducted (e.g., inriver removal vs. land-based removal)
 - Whether & how to enclose the mud flat work area
 - Type of cap to be placed

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Tentative Mud Flat Cleanup Schedule

- Summer 2012: collect additional information
- Fall 2012: EPA review of pre-final design plans
- Spring/Summer 2013: conduct mud flat cleanup
 - ➤ Potential impacts of mud flat cleanup on Riverside County Park undetermined at this time

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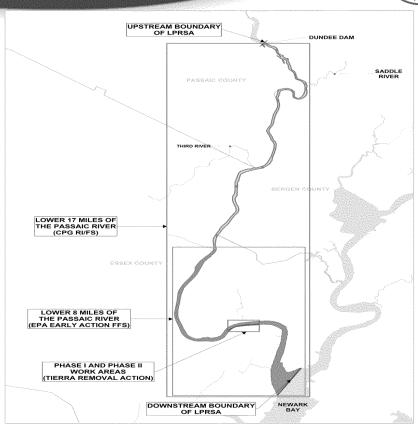


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Big Picture: Study & Cleanup of the Lower Passaic River

- Study of contamination in the Lower Passaic River is part of the Diamond Alkali Superfund Site in Newark
- Interim cleanup of land portion of Diamond Alkali site (plant property in Newark) was completed in 2001

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Big Picture (cont.)

- Removal of contaminated river sediment next to plant property is currently underway
- EPA completing a study of contamination in an 8-mile stretch of the Lower Passaic River (Newark Bay up to Belleville) & developing potential cleanup options
 - Proposed cleanup plan for 8-miles due this Fall/Winter

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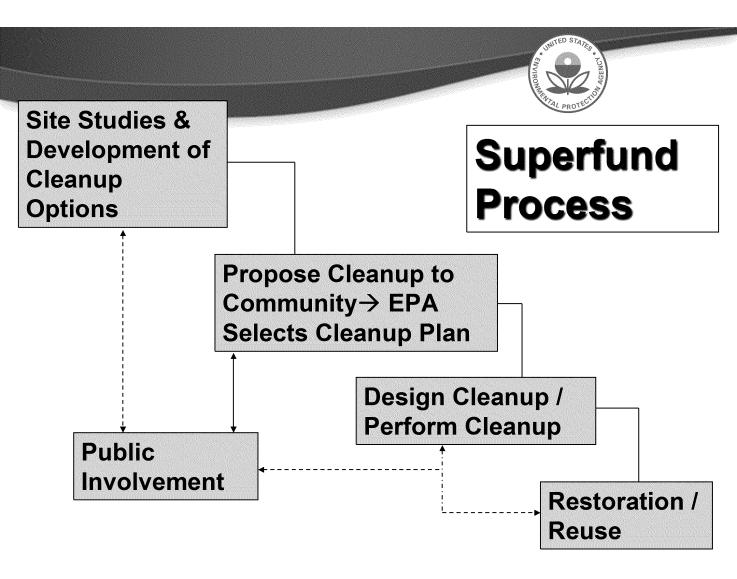
Big Picture (cont.)

EPA overseeing comprehensive study of the Lower Passaic River by Cooperating Parties Group

- 17 mile stretch of the Passaic River
- Conducted under a 2007 legal agreement between EPA and the Cooperating Parties Group
- Collecting sediment, water, fish, crab, biota, & other river data
- Study should be completed in 2013
- Includes detailed investigation of Lyndhurst mud flat & other potential areas of concern

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Next Steps After Completing 17-Mile Study

- Feasibility Study
 - After defining where the contamination is and how it moves in the environment EPA identifies options for addressing the contamination
- Proposed Plan
 - Public Input on the preferred cleanup plan (Proposed Plan) and other options considered in the Feasibility Study
- Selection of Cleanup Plan (Record of Decision)



How to Be Involved

- Attend public information sessions
- Provide input to EPA and local officials
- Attend meetings of the Passaic River Community Advisory Group
 - second Thursday of the month
 - generally held in Newark, adding a meeting in Lyndhurst

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Where to Get Information

- www.ourpassaic.org
- Subscribe to the Lower Passaic River listsery
- David Kluesner, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator at 212-637-3653 or kluesner.dave@epa.gov
- Stephanie Vaughn, EPA Project Manager, at 212-637-3914 or vaughn.stephanie@epa.gov
- Follow EPA Region 2 on Twitter http://twitter.com/#!/EPAregion2

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Questions

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